



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/543,021	10/03/2005	Martin Moser	4889/PCT	4055
21553 7590 09/21/2007 FASSE PATENT ATTORNEYS, P.A. P.O. BOX 726 HAMPDEN, ME 04444-0726			EXAMINER WILLIAMS, MAURICE L	
			ART UNIT 3611	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/21/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/543,021	Applicant(s) MOSER ET AL.	
	Examiner Maurice Williams	Art Unit 3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 July 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/22/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 07/22/05 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Applicant's abstract begins with the phrase "The invention relates to..."

Claim Objections

3. Claims 13, 14, and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: 'the' should be changed to 'a' in:

- a. Lines 1, 2, and 3 of claim 1
- b. Line 6 of claim 14.
- c. Line 2 of claim 20.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The statement 'and/or' is provided several times throughout the claim. It is unclear what applicant is claiming due to the numerous possible combinations applicant is attempting to claim.

6. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 23 claims both an apparatus and method of using the apparatus. A single claim which claims both an apparatus and the method steps of using the apparatus is indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. *IPXL Holdings v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, 430 F.2d 1377, 1384, 77 USPQ2d 1140, 1145 (Fed. Cir. 2005); *Ex parte Lyell*, 17 USPQ2d 1548 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990)(claim directed to an automatic transmission workstand and the method of using it held ambiguous and properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Art Unit: 3611

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claim 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because it is directed to neither a 'process' nor a 'machine,' but rather embraces or overlaps two different statutory classes of invention. See MPEP 2173.05(p)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 13, 14, 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bohner et al. (US 6,336,519). Bohner discloses:

A method for synchronizing the position of a steering handle and the steering angle of steered vehicle wheels wherein: after the activation of a closed-loop control device (Fig. 1) which follows nonoperation of the device (activation occurs when vehicle is turned on) the instantaneous handle position and instantaneous steering angle are compared taking into account the instantaneously set relationship function, and in the case of a deviation in position a relative adjustment is carried out in order to reduce the deviation in position between the handle position and the steering angle (col. 2, ln. 48-52) and takes place only if an interrogation criterion (manipulation of the steering wheel) is fulfilled in addition to the deviation.

Art Unit: 3611

The deviation in position results from the difference between the instantaneous handle position and the setpoint handle position (col. 5, ln. 63 – col. 6, ln. 7).

In the case of a vehicle longitudinal velocity which is lower than a predefinable velocity threshold value, the relative adjustment takes place only while the steering handle is being moved manually by the driver (col. 3, ln. 17-23)

The method operates under an adjustment time period (col. 5, ln. 20-23) after whose expiry the deviation in position has to have reached a value which in absolute terms is less than or equal to a deviation threshold value.

The relative adjustment takes place with a synchronization speed (col. 6, ln. 24-36) at the steered vehicle wheels which is predefined or limited to a maximum value

The relative adjustment takes place only if the direction of the change in the handle position corresponds to the direction in which the relative adjustment is to take place (col. 5, ln. 8-23)

The relative adjustment takes place as a function of parameters, such as deflection of the steering wheel (col. 1, ln. 15-17)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3611

12. Claims 15 and 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohner in view of Yao et al. (US 6,795,763). Bohner discloses as discussed above but does not directly disclose an incremental adjustment at a percentage of the position deviation. Yao discloses an incremental cyclical adjustment (Fig. 5), which occurs at a percentage of the position deviation (col. 8, ln. 47-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify Bohner as taught by Yao in order to provide a smooth adjustment transition, rather than a sudden adjust, which would be more comfortable for the operator.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Magnus (031), Matsumoto (909), Card (543), Obata (529), Nishizaki (317), Duits (411) and Wright (129).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maurice Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-4263. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3611

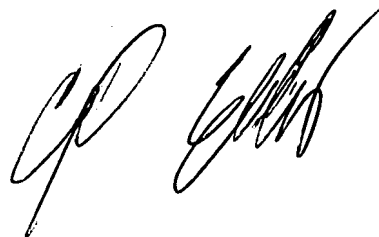
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Maurice Williams
Examiner
Art Unit 3611

MLW

September 13, 2007



CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600